



# How to Plan an Asthma Education Event at your State Capitol

## May is Asthma Awareness Month!

There is no better time to promote asthma education, including management of environmental triggers. Join EPA to plan an educational event in your state's capitol building. To do this, you will need the support of government officials and local communities. Things to do include:

- ▼ **Contact your state legislator who can act as your sponsor for the event. Their office can help you obtain space in the state capitol. You will most likely be asked to coordinate details with the capitol's operations office.**
- ▼ **Sponsor education activities in the state capitol building. Partner with other local organizations involved in asthma education in order to pool resources and increase attention and publicity for the event.**
- ▼ **Issue an asthma proclamation (see sample on page 10).**
- ▼ **Plan a health fair providing free asthma screenings and education on environmental asthma triggers and management. Recruit local sponsors to provide giveaways or funding to support the health fair. Potential sponsors include area doctors, respiratory care departments, businesses, and non-profit organizations—that may assist in setting up asthma screenings and identifying additional sponsors.**
- ▼ **Hold a press conference to announce the state's partnership as well as encourage the state as a whole to participate.**
- ▼ **Issue press releases and publicize your event in local newsletters, the state's Web site, and local media.**
- ▼ **Work with the state's press office to set up interviews with experts in the field, people who have asthma, and government officials. The press office can also set up meetings for state officials and local organizations to visit schools and daycare facilities to promote asthma management.**
- ▼ **Coordinate with local governments, asthma coalitions, manufacturers, doctors, respiratory therapists, and school districts.**
- ▼ **Remember to plan your event well in advance to address any security concerns.**

### And remember...

- ▼ **Distribute asthma materials within state offices and to the general public. Following are some of the materials available to you:**
  - ▶ EPA's "Clear Your Home of Asthma Triggers" brochure;
  - ▶ EPA's "Take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge" brochure and poster;
  - ▶ EPA's "Help Your Child Gain Control Over Asthma" brochure;
  - ▶ EPA's "Dusty the Asthma Goldfish and His Asthma Triggers Funbook"; and
  - ▶ ARTHUR® video, "Buster's Breathless."

